

GIFTED — PART ONE: DISCOVER

Week 1: “You Have Been Gifted”

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:7

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for gathering us together. Open our hearts and minds to your Word and help us recognize the ways your Spirit is already working within us. Teach us to see your gifts in ourselves and in one another, and show us how to use them to serve. Amen.

Theme: Spiritual gifts aren't rewards for especially accomplished Christians. They are gifts of grace, given by the Holy Spirit for the good of others. We aren't all gifted in the same way—and that's intentional. God has created the Church as a community in which different people, with different gifts, serve together for a common purpose. This week isn't primarily about identifying exactly what your spiritual gift is. It's about beginning with the biblical truth that God has given you something to contribute to the Body of Christ.

“Your spiritual gift isn't God's way of showing you how special you are. It's God's way of showing you where you can serve.”

Secular Quote: *“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”*

— commonly attributed to Pablo Picasso

Whether or not we know precisely who first coined those words, the idea gives us an interesting connection to Paul's teaching: what we have been given finds its fullest purpose when it becomes something we offer to others.

Starter Question: Think about something you're naturally good at—not necessarily something “churchy.” When did you first realize you were good at it, and did you recognize it yourself or did someone else point it out to you?

Digging Deeper Questions:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1–11 together before discussing these questions.

1. Paul repeatedly talks about different gifts coming from the same Spirit. Why do you think he emphasizes both difference and unity?
2. Verse 7 begins, “To each is given...” How does that change the way you think about who is called to participate in ministry?
3. Why do you think we sometimes find it easier to recognize someone else's gifts than our own?

4. Paul says spiritual gifts are given “for the common good.” How does that distinguish a spiritual gift from simply having a talent or ability?

5. Have you ever seen someone use a seemingly ordinary ability—listening, organizing, encouraging, fixing things, welcoming people, cooking, teaching, giving, etc.—in a way that became ministry to another person?

6. Comparison can keep us focused on gifts we don't have. When have you found yourself wishing you could serve God the way somebody else does?

7. Consider the statement from this week's sermon: “Your difference isn't a deficiency.” What would change if churches became better at helping people serve according to their gifts instead of expecting the same things from everyone?

8. Without worrying yet about naming a particular spiritual gift, where have you noticed God using you to help, encourage, strengthen, teach, welcome, lead, or care for someone else?

Actionable of the Week: Ask Three People

Your challenge this week is simple, but it may reveal something important. Choose three people who know you well and ask each of them:

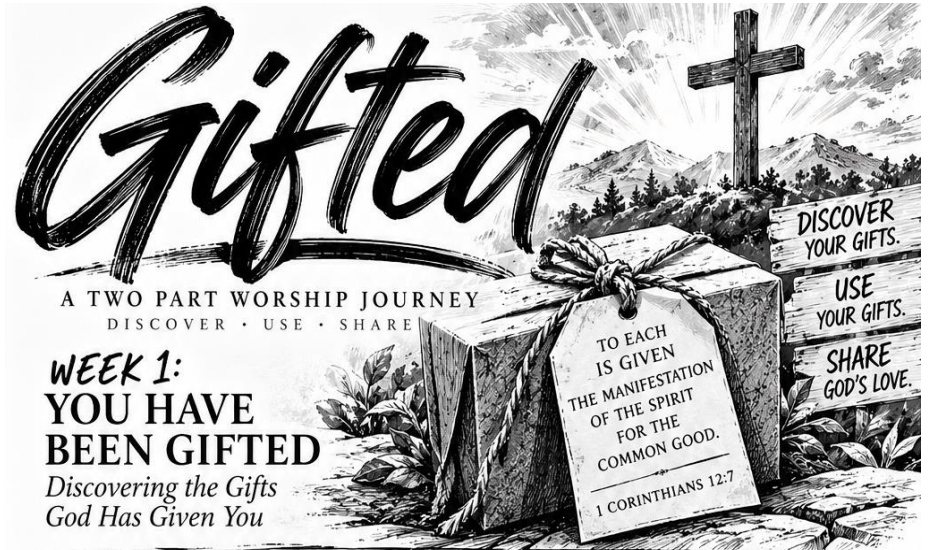
“Where do you see God using me to help other people?”

Don't explain why you think they're right or wrong. Don't dismiss their answer because it feels uncomfortable to receive a compliment. Just listen. Write down their responses. At the end of the week, compare what the three people said. Look especially for repeated words, characteristics, or examples. Then spend a few minutes praying:

“Holy Spirit, show me what you have given me, and show me who you want me to serve with it.”

Bring what you discover back next week as we begin exploring and defining the different spiritual gifts described throughout Scripture. _____.”

Closing Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank you for giving gifts to your people. Help us recognize what you have placed within us without comparing ourselves to others. Show us where our gifts can become acts of love and service, and give us courage to use what you have given us for the common good. In Jesus' name, Amen.



WEEK 1:
**YOU HAVE
 BEEN GIFTED**
*Discovering the Gifts
 God Has Given You*

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

A WEEK OF REFLECTION, DISCOVERY, AND ACTION

MONDAY OCT 5	TUESDAY OCT 6	WEDNESDAY OCT 7	THURSDAY OCT 8	FRIDAY OCT 9	SATURDAY OCT 10
					
ROMANS 12:3-8	EPHESIANS 2:8-10	1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-20	1 PETER 4:8-11	EPHESIANS 4:11-16	1 CORINTHIANS 12:21-27
Different Gifts, Same Grace	Created for Good Works	You Belong in the Body	Use Whatever Gift You Have Received	Equipped for Ministry	We Need One Another
Paul reminds us not to compare ourselves with others but to recognize that God has given different gifts to different people.	We are saved by grace, not by our accomplishments, yet that same grace sends us into lives of purposeful service.	The Body of Christ needs different members precisely because no single person can be everything the Church needs.	Peter connects God's gifts directly with serving others and calls us to become faithful stewards of God's grace.	Ministry isn't something reserved for pastors or church leaders. Christ equips the whole Church so that every member can participate in building up the Body.	No member of Christ's Body can say to another, "I don't need you." Our differences aren't deficiencies—they are part of God's design for the Church.
Reflect:	Reflect:	Reflect:	Reflect:	Reflect:	Reflect:
What abilities or ways of serving seem to come naturally to me, and where might God already be using them?	What good work might God already have placed in front of me that I have overlooked?	Have I ever believed that because I couldn't serve like someone else, my contribution wasn't important?	Who could be blessed this week by something God has already given me?	What would change if I began seeing myself not simply as someone who attends church, but as someone God has equipped for ministry?	Whose gifts do I see strengthening our church, and have I ever told that person what I see in them?



Prayer to Carry Through the Week

"Holy Spirit, show me what You have given me, help me recognize what You have given others, and teach me to use my gifts for the common good."